DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Nair, in the matter of the road from Vettiode to Kattaikonam an estimate for the improvement of the road is now being prepared. The bridge which you think is going to be quite inexpensive is estimated by the Chief Engineer to cost Rs. 10,000.

In regard to the conversion of the trace running from the Trivandrum-Quilon road, 8th mile, to Pottankode into a cart road, the unfortunate thing is that the available poramboke land is only from 6 ft. to 7 ft. wide. Could you arrange with the people of the place to surrender land ?

MEMBER : There is already a foot path.

DEWAN : It is only 6 ft. wide. Will you kindly try and persuade the people to surrender land free of cost?

The next item is much the same as item (1) of the previous speaker's representation and I have to give the same reply.

Similarly in regard to your item (4), which is the same as item (2) of the previous speaker.

In regard to the road running along the eastern bank of the canal from Chakkai a good deal of work has already been done in repairing and improving it.

MEMBER : Only a portion has been attended to.

DEWAN : Something more is to be done this year.

As regards your representation about the maintenance of bye-roads and lanes, that is essentially a matter for the municipality.

MEMBER : They have got only control over sanitation.

DEWAN : That is not correct.

MEMBER : The P. W. D. have been maintaining them all along.

DEWAN : It is a matter for the municipality.

MEMBER : The municipality has not sanctioned any funds for this.

DEWAN : You had better carry the representation to the municipal council.

MEMBER : Provided the grant for maintenance is given to them, they will undertake.

DEWAN : Then you come to Anathazha chira. The Legislative Council has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 8,000 for the work of repairing and improving this chira and I know that on Sunday last, the work was progressing.

As regards the need for a dispensary at a place between Shearam and Kazhakuttam, the matter is now under consideration. The Administrative Board, Medical Services, consider that Pothancode is a suitable place.

Then as regards the question of a town planning scheme, the matter was referred to, I think during the last session of the Assembly. Since then, we have asked the Chief Engineer to report on the approximate cost of securing the services of a town planning expert and the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil has been asked to prepare a draft Bill. So the matter is not forgotten.

82. Needs of the Trivandrum town.

MR. M. N. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Trivandrum*) spoke of the urgent necessity of appointing a non-official president for the Trivandrum municipality. Trivandrum was one of the foremost towns in the State in point of education and it was a pity that the people of Trivandrum did not have the privilege enjoyed by many another town in the State, namely, of electing their own municipal president. Apart from this, the disadvantages of having an official president were quite obvious. The president, holding, as he did, his appointment at the pleasure of the Government was not responsible to the council. Having been appointed by the Government, they alone could remove him too. Even a vote of no-confidence passed by the council was of no avail against the president.

Having dealt with the constitutional and administrative aspects of the question, the member said that the present municipal president was unfit to hold the place and he charged him with several acts of official irregularity. The chief defect

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with the present president was his lack of legal knowlege. The member then urged for power being given to the municipality to elect their own president. If this was not possible, he would be satisfied if a non-official president was nominated by Government.

The next subject dealt with by the member was the improvement and completion of the drainage and sewage systems of the town. Next, he urged for the widening of the important lanes in the thickly populated parts of the town.

The member also urged for :—

(1) Opening of a road from Pulimoodu to the S. M. V. School ;

(2) Investing the municipality with control of the poramboke lands in the town ;

(3) Co-operation of the Government in taking preventive measures against the spread of malaria and philaria; and,

(4) The provision of a poor house in Trivandrum.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswaran Pillai, your time limit is up and you read so rapidly that I am afraid that I was not able to follow all what you said.

MEMBER: Because, it is for want of time.

DEWAN: You should select subjects in such a way as to keep within the time limit and speak in such a manner as to enable others to follow you. A good deal of what I was able to follow of what you said is about the second item in your representation, which you took up first *i. e.*, about the appointment of a non-official president. Let me assure you Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, that I have been closely watching the proceedings of the local municipality and in my judgment, as in the judgment of certain other experienced officials and non-officials in the State, the time has not yet come for a non-official president for the Trivandrum municipality. You refer to the present president who I might tell you was chosen with very great care and in my opinion the municipality is fortunate in having him as its head. You refer to him as lacking legal knowledge and acumen and knowledge and experience in debate.

MEMBER: I have substantiated every statement I have made.

DEWAN: This is not a court of law. I might tell you that the functions of a municipal council are only incidentally and in a very subsidiary manner concerned with legal matters and the niceties of debate. The main function of the council is to get things done and administer the municipal area. And that lies mainly with the chairman. If the municipality needs legal advice, I have not the slightest doubt it can take the views of the lawyers of Travancore. Possibly it has no legal advisers at present.

In the matter of anti-malarial propaganda which you advocate, the government have the whole question of public health in the State and incidentally of that of Trivandrum under consideration at the present moment and I hope to evolve a satisfactory system before long.

In regard to the drainage system the municipality have failed to carry out a drainage system during the many years of its existence and I think the Government will have to take up the question.

MEMBER: The drainage is with the P. W. D. and not with the municipality. They have not transferred it.

DEWAN: The Government is taking up for consideration the whole drainage system of the town in connection with the water supply. The incidence of the cost of the scheme also will receive the serious consideration of Government.

The provision of a poor house for persons within the municipality is essentially a matter for the municipality.

MEMBER: As regards the other two things, *i. e.* widening of important lanes etc.

DEWAN: I have already spoken about it a little while ago.

MEMBER: As regards the opening of a road from Pulimood to the S. M. V. School.

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DEWAN: Upon that question, I have expressed an opinion earlier in the day. In any case, you can have a separate reply given to you.

MEMBER: The control of poramboke lands by the municipality.

DEWAN: You will have a separate reply.

83. Needs of the Neduvankad taluk.

MR. M. SUBRAHMONYA PILLAI (*Member, Neduvankad taluk*) said that the present kist months were not at all suited to the convenience of the ryots. If the taxes were payable when the grains sold dear it would have helped the ryots very much. But now it was not so. The member therefore urged that the kist months might be changed from Tulam to Vrischikam and Dhanu and from Meenam to Medam and Edavam. This change had already been made in the Quilon division and it could be easily extended to the Neduvankad taluk.

In regard to agricultural development in the taluk, the member said that the tanks and chiras in the taluk stood in urgent need of renovation. Instances were also too many of landowners encroaching upon the tanks and waterways. These encroachments should be prohibited in future and trespassers should be evicted. Manure depots should be opened in each pakuthi and arrangements should also be made for supplying seed-bulls to cultivators. With a view to providing good manure to the cultivators, they should be permitted to collect green manure from the poramboke lands adjacent to their holdings. In order to extend the area of paddy cultivation, swampy regions within forest reserves should be disafforested and assigned to applicants.

84. Needs of the Neduvankad taluk.

MR. M. SUBRAHMONYA PILLAI (*Member, Neduvankad taluk*) said that in reply to his representation at the 23rd session of the Assembly about the necessity of capturing wild elephants making inroads upon plantations, he was told that the Conservator had made arrangements for driving them away. But the member failed to understand how elephants that came at dead of night from forests twenty and thirty miles away could be scared away by the Conservator or his subordinates. The want of alertness of the Forest Department in such matters was quite familiar to every one. Even when elephants attacked certain plantations in day time in the taluk, the department was very slow to take action; in fact they did nothing either to scare away the elephants or to capture them. The only effective remedy against the inroads of the elephants was to capture them and the Forest Department should be instructed to take urgent measures for the purpose.

In the matter of communications in the taluk, the ferry boat at the Aniyil *kadavu* should be restored. The foot paths from Kundamankadavu to Vellanad, from Aruvikarai to Nedunilipalam, from Nedunilipalam to Kallar, from Neduvankad to Aruvikarai, and from Pothencode market to the Vamanapuram road should be made cartable roads.

In the interests of public safety a Police Inspector should be posted at Vidurai and if this was not possible the present police station at Vidurai should be put under the charge of the Neduvankad Police Inspector.

Finally, the member requested that the two Arattu days in the Sri Padmanabhaswami temple and the *Thirunal* days might be declared as public holidays in the Neduvankad taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai, I will take up the question of kist months again and see whether it is possible to do the same thing for the Neduvankad taluk as we have done for Quilon.

What is to be done for about elephants, I do not know.

MEMBER: Pits should be dug and the elephants should be captured.

DEWAN: Do the elephants come to Kottur?

MEMBER: Yes.

DEWAN: In regard to manures, I shall ask the Director of Agriculture to see whether he can arrange for the same by commission agents.

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